

**SAVANNAH'S
ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 16, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Lutheran Services of Georgia

I. Welcome and Introductions – Anne Roise

II. Housekeeping – Natalie Walker

- A. Updated Task Force Contact List / Sign-in Sheet
- B. Task Force Listserve

III. Review of last meeting

IV. Host Spotlight: Lutheran Services of Georgia – Gena Taylor

V. Reports from Sub-Committees

- 1. Resource Collaboration – Valerie Brown
 - a. CAT
 - b. UWCE
- 2. Living Wage – Bernie Polite
- 3. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy
 - a. New Survey
 - b. Timeline for faith-based community involvement

VI. Guest Speaker - Kathy Keith, Director of Coastal Workforce Services

VII. Vision/Mission Statement – Anne Roise

VIII. Information Sharing

- A. Upcoming Task Force member events
- B. Other announcements

IX. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

January 27	United Way of the Coastal Empire
February 24	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
March 23	

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X. Welcome and Introductions

Sr. Pat Baber, John Paul Berlon, Alan Bray, Valerie Brown, Carole Fireall, Emily Gambill, Gwen Glover, Winston Gordon, Jacquelyn Jackson, Hope Jones, Kathy Keith, Julie Lamy, Bernard Polite, Charlotte Rehmert, Anne Roise, Ayris Scales, Gena Taylor, Jamal Toure, Natalie Walker, Ruthann Walsh, and Brian White.

XI. Housekeeping

C. The Task Force contact list was circulated for corrections and additions.

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D. Task Force Listserve - If you have any questions about the listserve, please contact Natalie Walker at 651-3653/Natalie_Walker@ci.savannah.ga.us .

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XII. Review of last meeting

The November 16 meeting summary was approved as presented.

XIII. Host Spotlight: Lutheran Services of Georgia – Gena Taylor and Winston Gordon

Lutheran Services of Georgia is a nonprofit social service agency with offices throughout the state of Georgia. In addition to Savannah, they have offices in Atlanta, Augusta, Kensington, and Albany. This organization offers programs in four areas that include Adoptions, Family and Children Services, Foster Care, and Refugee Services. A program highlighted during the meeting is the Georgia Satellite Child Care Program. A partnership with Savannah Technical College, this program teaches participants about child care and management skills. It is an eighteen month program with 130 participants in Chatham, Effingham, Bryant, and Liberty counties. Upon completion, they will earn a technical certificate from Savannah Tech. Gena, who will be leaving Lutheran serviced in January to be the Director at Greenbriar Children's Center, introduced Winston Gordon, the interim director of Lutheran Services of Georgia. He will begin his term on January 5, 2004. For more information, please visit their website at www.lsga.org.

XIV. Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Resource Collaboration – Valerie Brown
 - a. As of Monday, December 15, 2003 all CAT buses serve as information sources for United Way's 211 system. The following message, "United Way's 211 – To find or give help - Dial 211" will appear on the running message board and played on audio program. CAT has offered to provide

design and printing of 211 placards (one English and one Spanish) for the buses and is pursuing sponsorship of advertising space.

- b. The committee is working with United Way of Coastal Empire and the City of Savannah to discuss posting the UWCE's 211 database on the internet.

2. Living Wage – Alan Bray

- a. The living wage committee is reviewing information from their contacts in both Dayton, OH and St. Louis, MO. They have recently contacted Cindia Cameron, the co-director of the Atlanta Living Wage Coalition, who provided them with some information about recent studies and cost-of-living in Savannah. A representative of the committee will be serve on the Ad hoc committee to plan the poverty simulations and the regional event.

3. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy

- a. New Survey: Dr. Whorton gave the committee positive feedback on the surveys and the information collected. Based on the discussion, the committee has decided to make two major changes. 1. The sub-committee will look at stable families in addition to safe/self-sufficient families. The rationale behind this is there will be very little correlation between the data collected from the at-risk families and safe/self-sufficient families. 2. A shorter questionnaire will be developed for Safe/Self-Sufficient families. The proposed target group for the questionnaire are the families in the ProjectSAV neighborhoods.
- b. Timeline for faith-based community involvement: The committee plans to meet with members of the faith-based community in March to discuss possible collaborations with other community organization.

4. Ad hoc – Julie Lamy

- a. Committee Members: Sr. Pat Baber, Jackie Jackson, Ruthann Walsh, Cynthia Kennedy, Gwen Glover, Carole Fireall, Ayris Scales, Hope Jones, and John Paul Berlon.
- b. The ad hoc committee will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 10:00am at St Mary's Community Center.

XV. **Guest Speaker** - Kathy Keith, Director of Coastal Workforce Services presented the "2003 State of the Workforce Report for Coastal Georgia". For a copy of the report, you may visit Coastal Workforce's website <http://www.coastalworkforceservices.org> or contact them at 912-351-6379.

XVI. Vision/Mission Statement

- A. The Task Force agreed on the following mission statement: "The mission of Savannah's Anti-Poverty Task Force is to develop and strengthen public and private resources and advocate for policies that will contribute to the elimination of poverty in Savannah."
- B. Drafts of the vision statement, goals, strategies and objectives will be emailed to the Task Force for their approval.

XVII. Information Sharing

- C. Poverty Simulation: Sponsored by the City on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at United Way of Coastal Empire. The meeting will begin at 9:00am. You must RSVP by Friday, January 16, 2004 to attend this meeting because space is limited. The city will cover the \$5participant fee.
- D. Department of Family and Children Services: Public forum with State Senator Regina Thomas will be held on January 9, 2004 concerning the cuts in Child Care Subsidies.

XVIII. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

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